

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, further comprising:
an internal network of connection nodes connecting said virtualizer with said plurality of network-attached store computers;
a plurality of communications network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal communications network, and
a plurality of storage network adapters by which said computer system connects to said internal storage network.
- 3-4. (Canceled).
5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, further comprising Ethernet networking hardware and medium access protocols for facilitating communication within said internal communication network.
6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, wherein said Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) protocols facilitate communication between said plurality of network-attached store computers and said client computer.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a storage access protocol for facilitating communication between a storage component within said internal communications network and remaining components within said internal communications network.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, wherein said virtualizer comprises a network router.

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 29, further comprising a communication virtualizer file switch connected to said client computer and a server computer for sending requests for storage from one of a plurality of client computers to a network-attached store computer and from said network-attached store computer back to said client computer of said plurality of client computers.

12-19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said virtualizer determines which of said plurality of network attached stores to transmit said request for storage to by examining a zeroth packet in said request for storage.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, further comprising:
said virtualizer dividing said single response into a plurality of standard Ethernet packets
to send to said client computer as multiple standard Ethernet packets.

23-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A system for virtualizing multiple network attached stores,
said system comprising:

a plurality of network attached stores connected to an internal communications network,
wherein each of said plurality of network attached stores corresponds to a plurality of network
attached store computers;

a client computer, running a client application, connected to an external communications
network, wherein[[:]] said client computer packetizes a request for storage from said client
application as multiple standard Ethernet packets, each of said multiple Ethernet packets
including a unique request identifier corresponding to said request for storage;

~~said client computer combines said multiple Ethernet packets of said request for
storage into one jumbo packet; and~~

~~said client computer sends said request for storage to a network address of a
virtualizer, which is stored by said client computer, using Transmission Control
Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) protocols;~~

a virtualizer connected to said internal communications network and said external

communications network, wherein said virtualizer:

receives said request for storage from said client computer addressed to a network address of said virtualizer using one of a Network File System (NFS) protocol and a Common Internet File System (CIFS) protocol;

combining said multiple Ethernet packets of said request for storage into one jumbo packet;

translates said ~~TCP/IP protocols~~ one of said NFS protocol and said CIFS protocol of said request for storage received from said client computer into a network attached store protocol for communication with a plurality of network attached stores;

determines which single network attached store of said plurality of network attached stores will process said request for storage; and

routes said request for storage to said single network attached store, corresponding to a single network attached store computer;

wherein said single network attached store computer:

processes, at one time, said one jumbo packet of said request for storage according to said network attached store protocol;

~~constructs~~ transmits a ~~single~~ multiple packet response, to said virtualizer addressed to said client computer, ~~by including re-assembling all multiple response packets into said single response;~~

~~packetizes said single response, and sends said single response to said virtualizer;~~
wherein said virtualizer:

receives said multiple packet response from said single network attached store computer;

re-assembles all of said multiple packets of said response into a single response;
determines that said single response is addressed to said client computer; and
forwards said single response to said client computer; and
wherein said client computer:
receives said single response and de-packetizes said single response; and
passes said single response to said client application.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for virtualizing multiple network attached stores, the method comprising:

initiating, by a client application running on a client computer, a request for storage;
packetizing, by said client computer, said request for storage as multiple standard Ethernet packets, each of said multiple standard Ethernet packets comprising said request for storage include a unique request identifier corresponding to said request for storage;

~~combining, by said client computer, said multiple standard Ethernet packets of said request for storage into one jumbo packet;~~

sending, by said client computer, said request for storage to a network address of a virtualizer, ~~which is stored by said client computer, using Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) protocols~~ one of a Network File System (NFS) protocol and a Common Internet File System (CIFS) protocol;

receiving, by said virtualizer, said request for storage;
combining, by said virtualizer, said multiple standard Ethernet packets of said request for storage into one jumbo packet;

translating, by said virtualizer, said ~~TCP/IP protocols~~ one of said NFS protocol and said

CIFS protocol of said request for storage received from said client computer into a network attached store protocol for communication with one or more of a plurality of network attached stores;

determining, by said virtualizer, which single network attached store of said plurality of network attached stores will process said request for storage;

routing, by said virtualizer, said request for storage to said single network attached store;

processing at one time, by said single network attached store, said one jumbo packet of said request for storage according to said network attached store protocol;

~~constructing~~ transmitting, by said single network attached store, a ~~single~~ multiple packet response, addressed to said client computer based on receiving said one jumbo packet of said request for storage, ~~by including re-assembling all multiple response packets into said single response~~;

~~packetizing said single response, by said network attached store, and sending said single response to said virtualizer~~;

receiving said multiple packet response from said single network attached store computer;

re-assembling all of said multiple packets from said response into a single response;

determining, by said virtualizer, that said single response is addressed to said client computer;

forwarding, by said virtualizer, said single response to said client computer;

receiving, by said client computer, said single response and de-packetizing said single response; and

passing, by said client computer, said single response to said client application.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein said network attached store protocol comprises one of a Network File system protocol and a Common Internet File System protocol.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said network attached store protocol comprises one of a Network File system protocol and a Common Internet File System protocol.